

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - T E X T (P A R A 4 .)

USDOC FOR BEWT

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ECON, UR
SUBJECT: SOVIET INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT UP BUT DECIDEDLY
MIXED AT SEVEN MONTHS

1. SOVIET INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION FOR SEVEN MONTHS WAS
UP 5.1 PERCENT OVER THE SAME PERIOD OF LAST YEAR.
LABOR PRODUCTIVITY ROSE 3.8 PERCENT - RIGHT ON PLAN -
BUT CONTINUED TO ACCOUNT FOR ONLY THREE-QUARTERS OF
OUTPUT GROWTH. TAUTNESS IN THE PLAN IS REFLECTED IN
FACT THAT ONLY 4 OF 22 INDUSTRIES WERE MORE THAN ONE
PERCENT ABOVE PLAN (GAS AND AUTOMOBILES, 3 PERCENT;
POWER MACHINE-BUILDING AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING,
2 PERCENT) AND IN DOWNSTREAM PROBLEMS RESULTING FROM
LACK OF ABOVE-PLAN PRODUCTION OF BASIC INPUTS (E.G.,
MACHINE-BUILDING AND ROLLED STEEL).

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2. IN FUELS THE TRENDS AT THE HALF CONTINUE. GAS IS
UP 8 PERCENT, ELECTRIC POWER 5 AND OIL 4. (AT THAT
RATE THE OIL TARGET OF 575 MMT COULD BE MISSED BY
5-7 MMT.) COAL IS ONLY SLIGHTLY BELOW PLAN, BUT
APPEARS HEADED FOR CONSIDERABLY LESS THAN THE 746
GOAL FOR THE YEAR.

3. TO JUDGE BY THE COMMENTARIES IN THE AUGUST 15 "TRUD" AND "SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA" AND "EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA" NO. 34, THE SHORTFALLS IN THE FOLLOWING FIELDS WERE SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE THEY WERE MENTIONED IN THOSE ARTICLES. FINISHED ROLLED STEEL WAS 400,000 TONS BELOW TARGET AND THAT AFFECTED BOTH MACHINE BUILDING AND FUEL-TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT. ALSO SHORT WERE LOADERS, EXCAVATORS, FREIGHT CARS AND VEHICLE PARTS.

4. GENERAL PLAN OVERFULFILLMENT IN CHEMICALS COVERED "RATHER SERIOUS FLAWS". MINERAL FERTILIZERS CONTINUED A DECLINING TREND, AND PHOSPHATE FERTILIZER MADE ONLY 94 PERCENT OF ITS MONTHLY GOAL.

5. COMMENT: IT CAN BE EXPECTED THE REGIME WILL ATTEMPT TO TIGHTEN UP LABOR DISCIPLINE AND PLAN DISCIPLINE PARTLY BY INCREASING PARTY ACTIVITY TO THESE ENDS AND ALSO BY TYING INCENTIVE PAYMENTS MORE CLOSELY TO FULFILLING CUSTOMER ORDERS IN TERMS OF ASSORTMENT AND DELIVERY SCHEDULE. THOSE GOALS AS WELL AS QUALITY STANDARDS MAY BE HARDER TO KEEP UP AS PRESSURE GROWS TO MEET VOLUME GOALS AT A TIME WHEN DELIVERIES OF INPUTS MAY BECOME LESS RELIABLE. (AIRGRAM FOLLOWS.) TOON

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